

March 24, 1976

sold for \$550.00. Today a new Nova which is very similar to a 1939 automobile sells for \$3,000. Gasoline was selling for 15¢, 6 times that is 90, we are buying it for 60¢, that's a one third cheaper than it was when times were tough. We all know that it costs more to build roads and maintain them. This is a good bill and it deserves your support.

PRESIDENT: Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am confused now. Senator Kelly got up yesterday and panicked. The taxes are going to go up and today supports them going up. I'm having a difficult time here getting a handle on it. Again, I would repeat to you that this is not the time, and I don't believe the members of the legislature have had demonstration and proof that the need is here for the funds. Where are they? How are they? Where are they coming from? You are being asked to raise the tax, for what purpose? I have the sheets before me in terms of where the money goes back to but what projects we are talking about, where's the programs? What we are doing, we are raising additional revenue, turning it over to another body to expend. No one, and maybe they have to the committee, or maybe they have to Senator Maresh, has talked in terms of the need for money. I've heard their lesson out front and on a phone call or two that the municipalities need the money but no one is clearly put in what the money is for, where it's going for and it is an increased tax. Senator Kelly, it's not my intention to pick on the gasoline industry because they have certainly had some problems. But I, again, say to you of all the items and commodities people are buying now, one of the things they are most painfully aware of is gasoline. Simply because of the rapid increase. Now Senator Kelly told you what it cost for gasoline in 1939. That was a very similar figure in 1950 and very close probably to 1960. Probably didn't double for more than 30 years. But the price has doubled in the last 5 and no criticism offered or no criticism intended for the industry. But the point is that people are keenly aware, are keenly aware of this problem and the legislature has been asked to appropriate more money. I doubt if anybody has been talked about in terms of a look at the need, the concern for it, I think this would be extremely poor timing to fund this bill at this time. Because again I say to you, we must be doing something wrong. Either that or we must have much finer roads than our neighboring states that have some of them with about the same amount of roads if we are going to go to two to two and one half cents in tax above each of those. So I would think that it would not be reasonable, it would not be reasonable, Senator Moylan, to do that. So I would ask that you not support the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: ~~Move the~~ previous question, sir.

PRESIDENT: Are there 5 seconds? There are. The question is, shall debate cease. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Maresh.